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GUIDE

TO

WASHINGTON.

1897-8.

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THE CAPITOL.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

A GUIDE

TO

WASHINGTON.

1897-8.

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WASHINGTON.

THE CAPITOL.

THE Capitol of the United States is situated on Capitol Hill, one and one-third miles from the White House and half a mile from the Pennsylvania Railroad Station. The building is open from 9.00 A. M. to 4.30 P. M. daily, except Sundays and holidays. Congress goes into session during its term at twelve o'clock noon. Visitors are allowed on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives until 11.45 A. M. during the days on which Congress meets: after that hour they are admitted to the galleries only.

The central portion of the building is constructed of Virginia sandstone, painted white: the Senate and House wings are of Massachusetts marble. The columns of all porticoes are monoliths. The entire length of the Capitol is seven hundred and fifty-one feet and four inches: width, three hundred and fifty feet: area, over three and one-half acres.

The corner stone of the main building was laid by President Washington on September 18, 1793. The corner stone of the extensions was laid by President Fillmore on July 4, 1851, Daniel Webster being the orator. Until the completion of the extensions the Senate occupied the present Supreme Court Room, and

the House of Representatives the present National Statuary Hall; the extensions were first occupied by Congress on January 4, 1859.

The dome of the Capitol, surmounted by the statue of Freedom, towers nearly three hundred feet above the



ROGER'S BRONZE DOORS.—DEATH OF WARREN,
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL.

esplanade. It may be ascended by a winding stairway. In the central building are the Rotunda, the Supreme Court Room, and the Statuary Hall. The Senate occupies the north wing and the House of Representatives the south wing.

The Brumidi fresco on the Rotunda canopy is one of the greatest works of art in America. In the centre is the Apotheosis of Washington. On his right sits Freedom: on his left, Victory: about him float aerial figures representing the original thirteen States. Around this centre piece are groups representing the Fall of Tyranny, Agriculture, Mechanics, Commerce, Marine, Arts, and Sciences. At the east entrance to the Rotunda are the famous Rogers bronze doors, illustrating scenes in the career of Columbus.

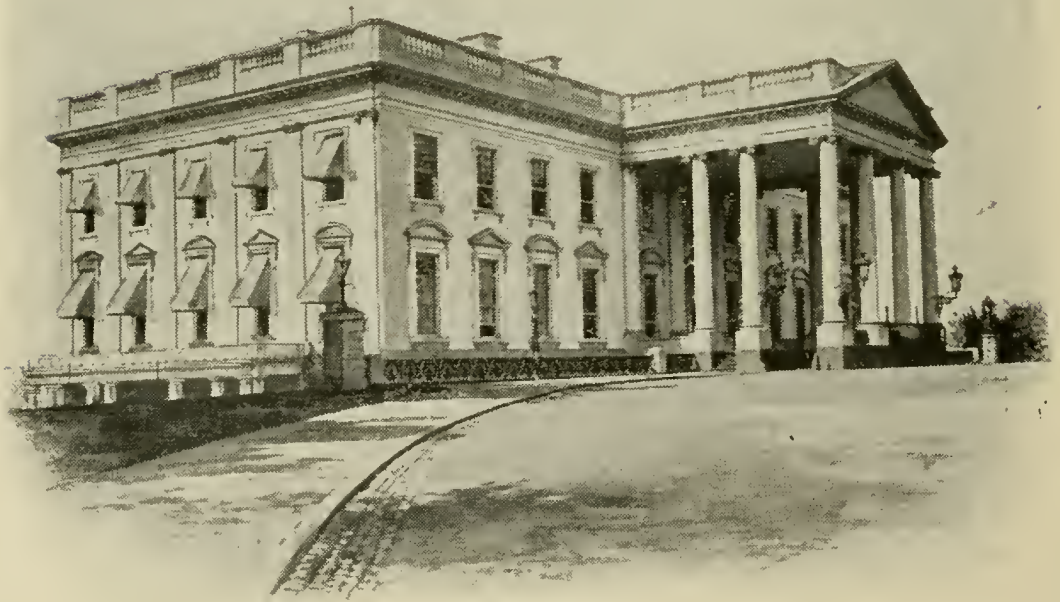
The National Statuary Hall, the old Hall of Representatives, the scene of the debates by Webster, Clay, and Calhoun, is set apart for the reception of two statues from each State, and now contains the figures of nearly all the prominent men in the nation's history.

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

The "White House," the official home of the President of the United States, is situated on Pennsylvania Avenue at Sixteenth Street. The East Room or State Parlor is open to visitors from 10.00 A. M. to 2.00 P. M. daily except Sundays and holidays. Ordinarily the President receives visitors in the East Room at 3.00 P. M. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and persons having business with the President will be received from 12.00 o'clock noon to 1.00 P. M. every day except Tuesdays and Fridays. These rules are subject to change, however, at the will of the President.

The building is constructed of Virginia freestone and is one hundred and seventy feet long and eighty-six feet in depth. It consists of a rustic basement, two

stories and an attic, the whole surmounted by an ornamental balustrade. The White House was the first public building erected at the new seat of Government. The corner stone was laid by Washington, October 13, 1792. John Adams was its first occupant in 1800. In 1814 it was burned by the British, and upon



THE "WHITE HOUSE."

its restoration the stone was painted white to obliterate the marks of the fire.

The East Room is usually the only one shown to visitors. From the grand central corridor, however, which extends clear through to the conservatory, other rooms lead off, sumptuously furnished, and taking

their names from the predominant color of their decorations. The Green Room is now used principally for a music room. The Blue Room is also used by the President as a reception room. It was in this room that the Cleveland marriage took place in June, 1886. The Red Room is used as the family sitting room, and also for receptions by the ladies of the President's household. Beyond the Red Room is the State Dining Room, where the state dinners are given to the Cabinet, the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Diplomatic Corps. The President's Room on the second floor is reached by a stairway which ascends from the hall between the vestibule and the East Room. Opening off from the President's Room is the Cabinet Room. All of these rooms are luxurious in their furnishings and contain many valuable paintings of former Presidents and noted personages.

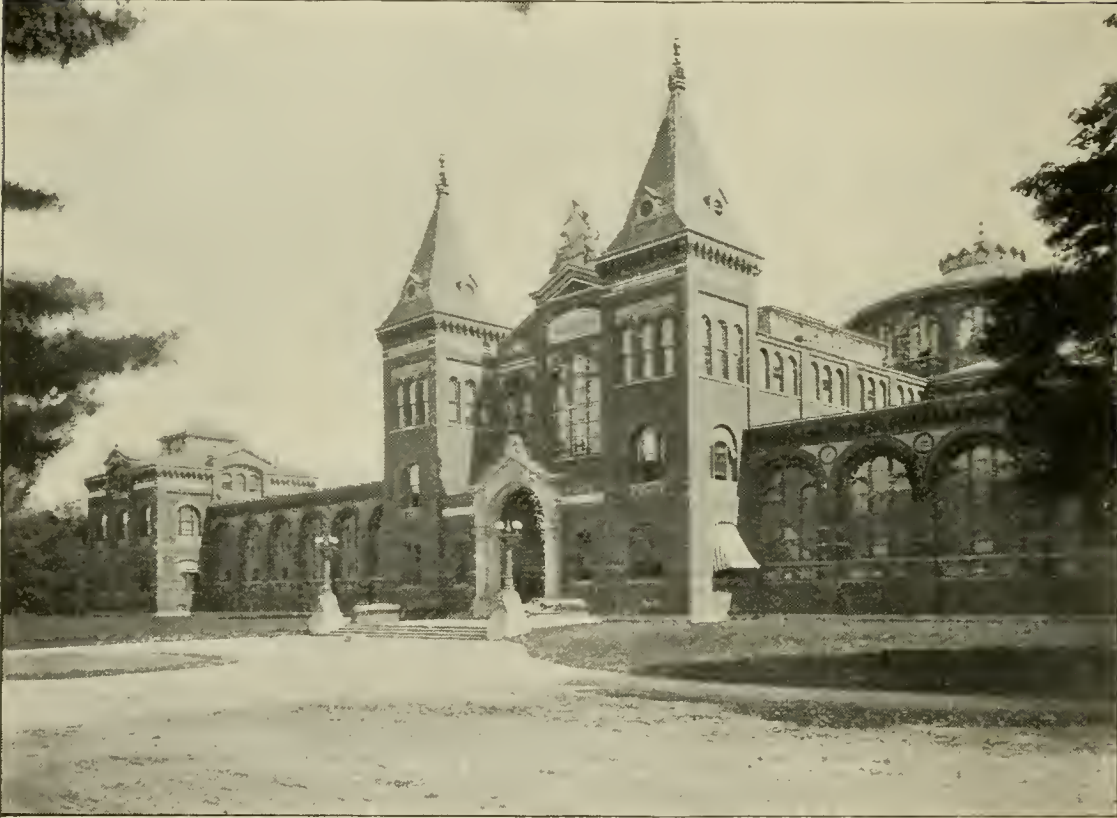
THE TREASURY.

The Treasury of the United States is situated on Pennsylvania Avenue at Fifteenth Street. It is open to visitors from 9.00 A. M. to 2.00 P. M., daily except Sundays and holidays, but the tour of the building can be made only between 11.00 A. M. and 12.00 noon, and 1.00 and 2.00 P. M.

This building is constructed of sandstone and granite, and has a total length of four hundred and fifty feet and a width of two hundred and



fifty feet. Its site was chosen by President Jackson, who, becoming impatient at the long delay, stuck his cane into the ground one morning and ordered, "Build it here." This is the bank of the nation, and in it are to be seen the Cash Room, Division of Issue, the



NATIONAL MUSEUM.

Redemption Division, the bond and gold and silver vaults, and the Secret Service Museum.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.

This important branch of the Treasury Department is located in a handsome brick building on the Mall

between Fourteenth and B Streets, quite near the Washington Monument. It is here that all the national paper currency, Government bonds, stamps, passports, &c., are engraved and printed. On the ground floor is a museum containing specimens of the old fractional currency known as "shinplasters," series of all the notes printed, beside many specimens of counterfeit notes and the tools and machinery used in their manufacture. The building is open to visitors between 9.00 A. M. and 12.00 noon, and 12.30 and 2.30 P. M., and upon application to the officer at the door a competent guide will be furnished to show the visitors through the building and explain the various processes and methods used in making the national bank notes.

STATE, WAR, AND NAVY.

The State, War, and Navy Building is situated west of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. It is open to visitors from 9.00 A. M. to 2.00 P. M. daily except Sundays and holidays. It is constructed of granite, four stories high, with a frontage of three hundred and forty-two feet on Pennsylvania Avenue and a depth of five hundred and sixty-five feet, and is regarded as one of the most magnificent office buildings in the world. It has five hundred rooms and two miles of marble halls. The War Department occupies the west wing, the Navy Department the east



wing, and the State Department the south. The main entrance is on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The offices of the Secretaries are on the second floor and are accessible only for business, but the richly furnished anterooms may be inspected.

Many interesting relics may be seen in the State Library, such as Washington's sword and Franklin's staff, a *fac simile* of the Declaration of Independence, the Great Seal of the United States, and numerous medals and manuscripts.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

The Smithsonian Institution stands in a large park on the Mall between Seventh and Twelfth Streets, and is open to visitors daily, except Sunday, between 9.00 A. M. and 4.30 P. M. In the museum may be found many fine specimens of stuffed birds and animals of all kinds, besides thousands of unique and interesting curios gathered from all parts of the world.

In the park surrounding the Institution may be seen one of the finest sylvan collections in this country, there being in all nearly two hundred varieties of trees.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM.

Closely adjoining the Smithsonian Institution is the National Museum, the most perfect building for the purpose in existence. Its architecture is Romanesque, and the building is adorned with many fine groups of statuary, chief among which is the group representing Columbia as protectress of Science and Industry. Within the walls of this great building are many

curios of interest to both old and young. The United States Centennial exhibit has been placed here, besides the relics of America's greatest generals, Washington and Grant. The ethnological, metallurgical, and geological exhibition is especially large and complete. Chief among the curios and exhibits in point of



CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

interest are groups portraying the hardships incident to explorations in the extreme North, gold mining, fishing, and life on the plains. In this building is the original John Bull locomotive, which attracted so much interest at the World's Fair, being loaned by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

This building is open daily except Sunday between 9.00 A. M. and 4.30 P. M.

THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

This magnificent building is situated just east of the Capitol at Pennsylvania Avenue and B Street. It is open to the public from 9.00 A. M. to 4.30 P. M. weekdays. The material used in its construction is the purest white New Hampshire granite. The order of architecture is the Italian Renaissance. The building covers about three and one-half acres, and is the most elaborately adorned edifice in this country. In its frescoes and friezes, its statuary and paintings, its bronzes and bas reliefs, it bears comparison with any of the public buildings of the world. It has forty-three miles of shelving, and its present capacity of one million eight hundred thousand volumes could easily be increased to four million five hundred thousand volumes. The largest library in the world, outside of this building, that of France, contains only two million two hundred and fifty thousand volumes.



THE NEW CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.

The new Corcoran Art Gallery, recently completed, is situated on Seventeenth Street, occupying the entire square between New York Avenue and E Street, N. W. Visitors are admitted free on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9.30 A. M. to 4.00 P. M., and on

Sundays from 1.30 to 5.00 P. M. On other days an admission fee of twenty-five cents is charged. The building is constructed of Georgia white marble in the Neo-Grec style of architecture.

The collection of paintings, sculpture, and bronzes is very large, embracing works of the most eminent artists of the world, mostly contemporaneous.

THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT.

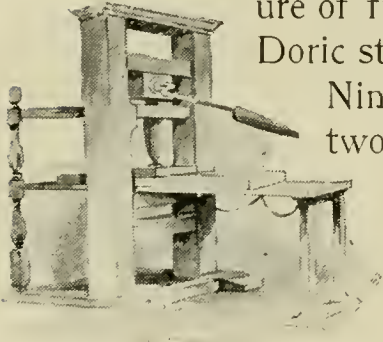


DOUBTLESS one of the most interesting objects at the National Capital is the Monument. This greatest of memorial shafts, rising to a height of five hundred and fifty-five feet, is situated in Washington Park, near Fourteenth Street, and is open to visitors daily from 9.00 A. M. to 4.30 P. M. The foundations of the monument were laid in 1848, and it was not until 1885 that the completed structure was open to the public. The lower part of this imposing edifice is built of New England granite, faced with crystal marble. In the construction of the upper part of the monument white marble exclusively is used.

The top is reached by an elevator running every half hour or by a flight of nine hundred steps. The view from the top, embracing Washington and its environments, the winding Potomac, and the heights of Virginia, is most magnificent. The total cost of the monument was \$1,300,000.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

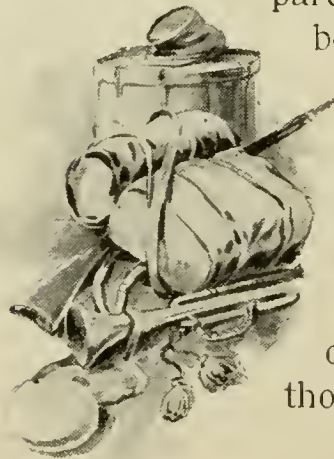
The building of the Department of the Interior, in which the Patent Office is located, is a massive structure of freestone, marble, and granite in the Doric style, and is bounded by Seventh and Ninth and F and G Streets, covering two large squares. Visitors are admitted to the building and museum of models from 9.00 A. M. to 2.00 P. M. The museum of models, the chief point of interest to visitors, is located on the second floor. Here may be seen models of all the inventions patented by American genius. Among the two hundred thousand or more models is the original printing press of Benjamin Franklin. A part of the models are on exhibition in the Union Building on G Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets.



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THE PENSION OFFICE.

The Pension Building is situated in the northern part of Judiciary Square, on G Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, N. W. Visitors are admitted between 9.00 A. M. and 4.00 P. M. It is an immense fire-proof structure built of brick and ornamented with a border of terra cotta bas relief. Here is kept the record of the one million two hundred thousand pension applicants. This



building is the largest of its kind in the world, over fifteen million bricks being used in its construction. The estimated cost was \$1,000,000.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

On F Street and directly opposite the Patent Office is the huge granite structure in which the business of the Post Office Department is transacted. It is open to visitors between the hours of 9.00 A. M. and 2.00 P. M. Probably the most interesting sight to the visitor is the Dead Letter Office and its museum stocked with all sorts of curious objects taken from the unclaimed letters which are received at this department in numbers varying from fifteen to twenty thousand daily.

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

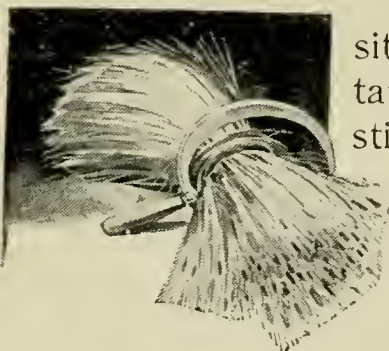
This building is located at North Capitol and H Streets, N. E., and visitors are admitted from 10.00 until 11.30 A. M. and from 1.00 to 3.00 P. M. It is an uninteresting building to one who is not engaged in the same art, and the ordinary visitor prefers to spend his time in some of the other buildings.

It is said to be the largest printing establishment in the world, and in order to successfully handle the enormous amount of printing required by the

Government the building has been divided into four parts.

The first floor contains the press and reading rooms, the second the composing rooms and offices, the third floor the binding department, while on the fourth floor all of the folding is done.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



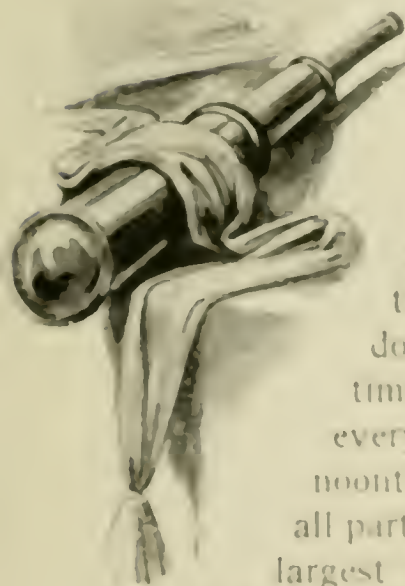
The Agricultural Buildings are situated in the Mall, a short distance west of the Smithsonian Institution. They are open to visitors from 9.00 A. M. to 4.00 P. M. In the museum may be seen a complete exhibition of the agricultural, horticultural, pomological, and botanical productions of the country. The building also contains an elaborate library, besides a large miscellaneous collection of trees, shrubs, and plants.

THE WEATHER BUREAU.

The interesting little building occupied by the Weather Bureau is situated at the corner of M and Twenty-second Streets. Visitors are admitted between the hours of 9.00 A. M. and 2.00 P. M. Here are kept in active use instruments for measuring the velocity of the wind, delicate barometers, and curiously-devised instruments for determining the volume of rainfall.

THE NEW NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

The new Naval Observatory is situated on Georgetown Heights, in West Washington. Visitors are admitted freely by day, but night visitors are restricted to Tuesdays and Thursdays, when admission may be gained by permit from the Superintendent. On these nights the Observer is present to give visitors an opportunity to view the heavens through the large telescope. The meridian of Washington passes through the centre of the dome of this building, and the large time ball is dropped from the mast every day at 12.00 M., and instantly noontime is transmitted by telegraph to all parts of the United States. One of the largest telescopes in the world, a twenty-six-inch equatorial, costing \$56,000, is located here.



THE LINCOLN MUSEUM.

In a small three-story house at 516 Tenth Street, N. W., may be seen the room in which President Lincoln died on the morning of April 15, 1865. The building is open daily to visitors, and a small fee is charged for admission. In this house is a large collection of Lincoln relics, among which are over two hundred portraits. Directly opposite this building is the site of Ford's Theatre, in a box of which Lincoln received his death wound.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

The Soldiers' Home is situated on a hill three miles east of the Capitol, and may be reached via the Seventh Street cars. It is open to visitors from 9.00 A. M. until sunset daily except Sundays.

The grounds cover some five hundred acres of diversified lawn, slope, and ravine. It is an institution for the benefit of soldiers who have been honorably discharged from the regular army after twenty years' service, or who have been disabled by wounds or disease.

It was at this picturesque spot that President Arthur spent his summer vacations.

MT. VERNON.

This historic spot, the home of General Washing-



ton, is situated on the south bank of the river, and is reached via the Washington, Alexandria & Mount Vernon Railway Company's electric line from 13½ Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. In the mansion the rooms will



be found just as they were in the time when the "Father of his Country" lived at this beautiful spot.

The old family vault, in which Washington's body lay until 1837, may be seen in the beautifully-wooded park surrounding the house. The body now rests in the handsome marble sarcophagus.

ARLINGTON.

The Arlington National Cemetery is situated on the Virginia side of the Potomac, on a hill overlooking the Capital. It is reached by the cars of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway, starting from 13½ Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The cemetery is open daily, including Sundays, from sunrise to sunset.

At Arlington rest sixteen thousand soldiers who gave up their lives in the War of the Rebellion. It is historic ground. The mansion, one of the old landmarks, was built in the early part of the century by a foster son of Washington. On the 22d of April, 1861, Robert E. Lee went out from this, his home, to fight for the Confederacy.

The view from Arlington Heights is most beautiful. Below flows the peaceful Potomac; on the farther side, with its towering monument, its parks, and its imposing buildings, lies the Capital of the Nation; beyond rise the encircling hills, rolling gently away to the dim, distant horizon.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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